

Department, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, NYS Department of Health, NYS Department of Labor—PESH, NYS Homeland Security & Emergency Services, Office of Emergency Management, NYS Homeland Security & Emergency Services, Office of Fire Prevention and Control, Fire Operations & Training Branch, NYS Homeland Security & Emergency Services, Office of Fire Prevention and Control, Inspections & Investigations Branch, NYS Homeland Security & Emergency Services, Office of Fire Prevention and Control, Special Operations Branch, NYS Police Aviation Unit, Parishville Fire Department, Pierrepont Fire Department, Potsdam Fire Department, Potsdam Police Department, Potsdam Rescue Squad, President Joseph L. Kennedy, Pyrites Fire Department, Rensselaer Falls Fire Department, RSI, Ryan-Biggs Associates, P.C., St. Lawrence University, St. Lawrence County Fire Investigation Team, St. Lawrence County Hazardous Materials Team, St. Lawrence County Office of Emergency Services, State University Construction Fund, SUNY Canton Emergency Management Team, SUNY Canton Academic Affairs, SUNY Canton Administrative Affairs, SUNY Canton Advancement Affairs, SUNY Canton Student Affairs, SUNY Office of Capital Facilities, SUNY Office of Legal Counsel, SUNY Potsdam University Police Department, West Potsdam Fire Department, West Stockholm Fire Department.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. EDWARD CRAWFORD

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 29, 2012*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Edward Crawford to acknowledge his receipt of the Walks of Life Award from the Irish American Archive Society.

Mr. Crawford was raised in Cleveland Heights, Ohio. He has since become a leader in Cleveland's business sector. Edward began his career as a salesman for Island Steel while enrolled in night school at John Carroll University. In 1962, he founded the Cleveland Steel Container, a company that produced paint cans. Just two years later, in 1964, Crawford established his own investing company, the Crawford Group. In 1992, he became the chairman and chief executive officer for Park-Ohio Industries. Mr. Crawford was named the Ohio Small Businessman of the Year by the Small Business Association in 1969.

Mr. Crawford has also served on the boards of numerous companies throughout his career including Arden Industrial Products, Continental Conveyor & Equipment Company, Continental Crushing & Conveying, Inc., Resilience Capital Partners LLC and Beech Technology Systems, Inc.

In addition to his career, Mr. Crawford has continuously served the Cleveland community. Just several years ago, he led a four year, \$400,000 renovation of the Irish Cultural Garden.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating Mr. Edward Crawford as he is honored by the Irish American Archive Society.

IN CELEBRATION OF MRS. GRACE VIRGINIA RICHARDSON HUMPHREY CUTTS' 100TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 29, 2012*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an inspiring mentor, beloved educator, respected community leader and a trans-generational pillar in Dawson, Georgia—Mrs. Grace Virginia Richardson Humphrey Cutts. On Saturday, March 3, 2012, Mrs. Cutts will be honored at an event celebrating her 100th birthday. This highly anticipated event will be attended by Mrs. Cutts' family members, friends, former colleagues, well-wishers and former students.

Mrs. Grace Virginia Richardson Humphrey Cutts was born on March 2, 1912 in Dawson, Georgia to Walter Revenna Richardson and Clara Louise Cochran Richardson. As a 92-year member of the Adoration Temperance Obedience Charity African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church in Dawson, Georgia, Mrs. Cutts is a woman who has been guided by her strong moral convictions and Christian faith. As a tenured member of Adoration Temperance Obedience Charity AME Church, Mrs. Cutts has served as the church pianist, secretary and a stewardess.

Mrs. Cutts was raised in the rural South in the 1920s, a period in our nation's history in which most African-Americans had limited opportunities to pursue their educational dreams. Despite the numerous societal challenges that lay in her path, Mrs. Cutts would go on to graduate from Allen Normal and Industrial High School. After she obtained her high school diploma, Mrs. Cutts enrolled in Georgia Normal and Agricultural College and graduated from the institution in 1949.

Understanding the importance of a quality education, Mrs. Cutts served as a teacher for 45 years. As an instructor, Mrs. Cutts helped generations of young scholars reach their full potential and obtain excellent educations. Even in retirement, Mrs. Cutts continued to serve as a mentor and tutor for young students in her community.

Mrs. Cutts has achieved numerous successes in her life, but none of this would have been possible without the support of her late first husband Calvin Homer Humphrey; late second husband Sammie Lee Cutts; late son Calvin Walter Humphrey; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

George Washington Carver once said, "How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong because someday in your life you will have been all of these." Mrs. Cutts has advanced far in life because she never forgot these lessons and always kept God first.

The race of life isn't given to the swift or to the strong, but to those who endure until the end. Mrs. Cutts has run the race of life with grace and dignity and God has blessed her over her lifetime.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to Mrs. Grace Virginia Richardson Humphrey Cutts as she and her family prepares to celebrate her 100th birthday.

On a personal note, I would like to not only congratulate Mrs. Cutts on becoming a distinguished centenarian but also express my profound gratitude to her for her outstanding contributions to America's education system and her principled advocacy on behalf of our nation's students.

NATIONAL KIDNEY MONTH

**HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 29, 2012*

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with more than 60 of my colleagues of the Congressional Kidney Caucus in support of the goals and ideals of National Kidney Month which begins tomorrow.

Each year, the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases as well as leading kidney care organizations recognize and celebrate March as National Kidney Month to promote public awareness, education, screening and detection throughout the nation.

Currently, more than 31 million Americans are affected by Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) and millions more are at risk. Kidney Disease is the slow loss of kidney function over time and, if left untreated, gradually progresses to end-stage renal disease marked by the complete loss of kidney function. While there is no cure for CKD, proper lifelong treatment can slow the onset of kidney failure and help control the symptoms of this devastating disease.

Recently named the eighth leading cause of death in the United States by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly 570,000 Americans currently rely on hemodialysis or a kidney transplant for their survival.

The Congressional Kidney Caucus, which was established in 2002, has partnered with a number of kidney organizations to promote policies that benefit patients with kidney disease and provide Members and their staff the most comprehensive, up-to-date information related to this disease.

Throughout the month of March, the Caucus supports the thousands of kidney advocates and groups that are expected to visit Capitol Hill to discuss their experiences and advocate for enhanced patient care, research and public education and prevention.

In the spirit of National Kidney Month, I encourage my fellow Members of Congress to participate in these events on Capitol Hill and events hosted in their districts and to consider joining the Congressional Kidney Caucus in support of these efforts. Please have your staff reach out to my office if you are interested in the schedule of events or if you are interested in joining the Caucus.

IN RECOGNITION OF SISTER KATHLEEN KILBANE

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 29, 2012*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Sister Kathleen Kilbane and to

acknowledge her receipt of the Walks of Life Award from the Irish American Archive Society. Sister Kathleen has dedicated her life to the homeless and to students of the Greater Cleveland area.

Sister Kathleen attended high school in Cleveland's West Park neighborhood at St. Joseph Academy. She later earned a bachelor's degree in education from St. John College and a master's degree from Cleveland State University.

In 1952, Sister Kathleen entered the nunnery at St. Clement in Lakewood. Early on, she devoted most of her time as a grade school teacher at Annunciation, St. Angela Merici, St. Aloysius, St. Mary and St. Colman schools. In 1977, the West Side Catholic Center was established to assist the elderly and homeless; Sister Kathleen was named the director. Twenty years later, in 1997, Sister Kathleen established Seeds of Literacy, an organization dedicated to helping high school drop-outs earn their diplomas.

Because of her relentless work to support those in need, in 2000, the West Side Catholic Center honored Sister Kathleen with the Dorothy Day Humanitarian Award.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating Sister Kathleen Kilbane as she is honored by the Irish American Archive Society.

**CONGRATULATING THE WAIALUA HIGH SCHOOL ROBOTICS TEAM, THE "HAWAIIAN KIDS," ON WINNING THE 2011 FIRST CHAIRMAN'S AWARD**

**HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 29, 2012*

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Waialua High School Robotics Team, the "Hawaiian Kids," on winning the prestigious Chairman's Award at the 2011 FIRST Robotics World Championships and to recognize its impressive contributions to the founding and expansion of robotics in Hawaii. The FIRST Chairman's Award recognizes a program's contributions to robotics, service to other robotics programs, and overall excellence. Waialua High School was one of 48 teams nationwide competing for the prize.

The judges of the 2011 FIRST Championship described the winning team as "helping transform the region from an area of agricultural industry decline to one where the accomplishments of these students are celebrated as an indicator of promise for the future." All of the team members of the "Hawaiian Kids" graduate from high school, compared to the region's average of a less than 30 percent graduation rate, and all of the school's valedictorians in the past four years have been members of the robotics team. The team has shown great promise as science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) leaders and innovators with 90 percent of the members pursuing careers in STEM fields.

Founded in 1999 by Glenn Lee, a Career and Technical Education teacher and electrical engineer, the Waialua High School Robotics Program has become a model for engaging students in STEM and college-readiness courses. The "Hawaiian Kids" were the first

FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) team in Hawaii and initiated the development of other teams statewide. Its accomplishments have been shared with local government representatives, their community, and schools throughout our State. Today, close to one-third of Hawaii's high schools have an FRC team, the highest percentage of involvement in the Nation.

While the "Hawaiian Kids" have experienced great success over the past few years, they continue to embrace their program's motto: "It's not all about winning, it's about teamwork, commitment and responsibility." Congratulations to the members of the Waialua High School Robotics Team for all their accomplishments, their dedication sharing robotics and STEM education with their peers, and continuing to raise Hawaii's academic standards.

Mahalo nui loa (thank you very much).

**RECOGNIZING THE CARSON WOMEN'S CLUB AND EDWARD TILLMON, A TUSKEGEE FIGHTER PILOT**

**HON. LAURA RICHARDSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 29, 2012*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Carson Women's Club, based in my congressional district, for the wonderful work it has accomplished over the years and their unwavering commitment to our local community.

The Carson Women's Club was founded in 1968 as a non-profit, non-political organization with a mission to serve as the official hostess of the City of Carson by supporting and promoting scholarships, and by engaging in community service activities focused on making Carson stronger.

The Carson Women's Club plays an active part in local charity work. For example, each year on the 4th of July, Club members bring food to the on-duty firefighters at all stations in Carson. The Club also sends Thanksgiving baskets to 15 adopted Carson elementary schools and organizes a Christmas toy drive for the children at the El Nido Center.

Mr. Speaker, the Carson Women's Club is a shining example of civic commitment, mutual trust, respect, and equal treatment without regard to race, sex, or ethnicity. The Club promotes mutual cooperation between individuals of different backgrounds through its diverse membership and informative community engagement events.

This past weekend, I had the opportunity to attend a Carson Women's Club event in my district honoring members of the Los Angeles Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. The Tuskegee Airmen were the first black military airmen in the United States. This heroic group of 13,000 young African American men overcame institutionalized racism to become one of the most distinguished fighter units in World War II.

At the meeting, we were fortunate enough to be graced with the presence of Mr. Edward Tillmon, a surviving Tuskegee Airman who reminded us of the remarkable accomplishments of the Tuskegee Airmen—both in and out of combat.

Through his experience growing up in a segregated America, Mr. Tillmon learned that hard work and perseverance are the key to overcoming obstacles that seem impenetrable. Mr. Tillmon expressed his appreciation for the challenges and opportunities that accompanied his time at war, and his firm beliefs that the successes of the Tuskegee Airmen would not have been possible if it were not for the strong sense of camaraderie between the members. They were truly a band of brothers.

Edward Tillmon continues to serve his nation by preserving the Tuskegee Airmen legacy through his association with the Los Angeles based "Tuskegee Airmen Scholarship Foundation", which was established in 1979 to provide annual scholarships to exceptional young students in their quest for academic excellence.

Mr. Speaker, Edward Tillmon served his nation with pride, even at a time when African Americans were treated like second-class citizens. The legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen is one of courage and heroism in the face of adversity and their story has provided many with the inspiration necessary to achieve their goals.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the contributions of the Carson Women's Club and Edward Tillmon and to thank them for their service to our community and our nation.

**INTRODUCTION OF WORKING FAMILIES FLEXIBILITY ACT**

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 29, 2012*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, as a result of demographic shifts over the last 50 years, the modern workforce has a different, more diverse set of needs. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, more than 70 percent of children are raised in families that are headed by either a working single parent or two working parents. The number of married households with children where both parents were in the labor force rose to 66 percent in 2010, while the number of single parent families has almost tripled over the last fifty years, from 5 percent in 1960, to 14 percent in 2010. Furthermore, more households are caring for older relatives as medical advances mean people are living longer, with studies showing that almost 60 percent of those who provide unpaid care to an adult or to a child with special needs are employed.

Flexible work arrangements are the key to meeting these diverse workforce needs. Such voluntary arrangements between employees and employers include changing the time, amount, and/or place that work is conducted in order to allow workers to more easily meet the needs of both work and family life. To give employees the right to request flexible work options in terms of hours, schedules, and work location, today I am introducing the Working Families Flexibility Act. This legislation also provides employers with flexibility by encouraging them to review these requests, propose changes, and even deny them if they are not in the best interest of the business.

Having flexible workplace policies has been shown to boost employee satisfaction and morale as well as improve business bottom line.